

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 NEA-10 /135 W
-----093683 181235Z /10

R 181209Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6164
ALL WHEAT NEGOTIATIONS POSTS

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PASS ELECTRONICALLY AGRICULTURE FOR ASST SEC HATHAWAY AND
NOVOTNY AND STR FOR STARKEY
ALL POSTS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ETRD UNCTAD OCON
SUBJECT: UNCTAD WHEAT CONFERENCE; ORGANIZATION AND
GENERAL STATEMENTS

1. SUMMARY: ELECTED THREE VICE CHAIRMEN OF CONFERENCE.
RESOLVED ISSUE OF CONFERENCE STRUCTURE, AND ELECTED COM-
MITTEE CHAIRMEN. MINOR CONFRONTATION OVER TERMS OF REF-
ERENCE FOR SEPARATE ECONOMIC COMMITTEES ON WHEAT AND
COARSE GRAINS. USSR LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR POSSIBLE ACCEP-
TANCE OF STOCKING PROVISION.

2. PLENARY AT FEB 16 SESSION MODIFIED RULES TO INCLUDE
THREE CONFERENCE VICE CHAIRMEN, AND AT ARGENTINE INSIS-
TENCE, SPECIFY SUCCESSION IN ORDER OF THEIR TITLES, IN
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ABSENCE OF CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN. FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN

A. BLUM (CANADA); SECOND VICE CHAIRMAN M. AHMED
(BANGLADESH); THIRD VICE CHAIRMAN H. CORSON (FRANCE).

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED FIVE COMMITTEES
REPORTING TO IT, AND ELECTED CHAIRMEN OF FOUR.

A. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR WHEAT CHAIRED BY POLEZHAEV (USSR)

B. ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR COARSE GRAINS CHAIRED BY LARSSON (SWEDEN)

C. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY SEWELL (UK)

D. FOOD AID COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY MULIRO (KENYA) NOMINATED BY EGYPT, SECONDED BY US

E. LEGAL DRAFTING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YET TO BE ELECTED.

4. FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGREEMENT ON TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WHEAT COMMITTEE THAT COMMITTEE WOULD EXAMINE AND REPORT ON PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN DRAFT NEGOTIATING TEXT, CHAIRMAN PROPOSED IDENTICAL LANGUAGE FOR COARSE GRAINS COMMITTEE. EXPORTERS, LED BY ARGENTINA AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTED BY BRAZIL, OBJECTED ON GROUNDS THAT PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE ACCEPTED DRAFT DOCUMENT AS NEGOTIATING TEXT ON COARSE GRAINS AND PREJUDGED CONFERENCE OUTCOME FOR A SINGLE AGREEMENT INCLUDING BOTH WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS. FOLLOWING EXTENDED AND HEATED RECESS DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EXPORTERS AND EC, COMPROMISE WAS REACHED BY ADOPTION OF TOTALLY INNOCUOUS TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR BOTH WHEAT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COARSE GRAINS COMMITTEES. LANGUAGE NOW READS: (INSERT "COARSE GRAINS" FOR THAT COMMITTEE IN LIEU OF "WHEAT"); "EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDES TO ESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ON WHEAT OPEN TO ALL PARTICIPANTS TO EXAMINE WHEAT UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7 AND TO REPORT THEREON TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE." AGENDA ITEM 7 OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA READS AS FOLLOWS: "PREPARATION AND ADOPTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT, 1971, AS EXTENDED."

5. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS IN ADDITIONAL KEY DELEGATIONS' GENERAL STATEMENTS FOLLOW:

A. ARGENTINE (ZORREGUIETA) STATEMENT ENDORSED STABILIZATION AND FOOD SECURITY BASED ON RESERVES SYSTEM WITH INDICATIVE PRICES, OPPOSED MINIMUM/MAXIMUM PRICES, SAID 10 MILLION TONS FOOD AID WILL REQUIRE NEW CONTRIBUTORS, STATED INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE IN COARSE GRAIN COMMITTEE THOUGH THOSE TALKS SHOULD NOT AFFECT AGREEMENT ON WHEAT.

B. USSR (POLEZHAEV) STATED THAT GENERAL SOVIET POLICY FAVORED STABILIZATION THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY

AGREEMENTS. HE SAID THAT IWA SHOULD BE BASED ON FIXED
MAXIMUM/MINIMUM PRICES, REVIEWED PERIODICALLY FOR REVISION,
AND ON SUPPLY/PURCHASE OBLIGATIONS. WHEAT AGREEMENT SHOULD
NOT AFFECT TRADE AMONG SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND ADJUSTMENT
MEASURES ON PRODUCTION OR INTERNAL PRICES WERE NOT CONSIS-
TENT WITH SOVIET POLICY. USSR WAS AT CONFERENCE TO
COOPERATE IN DEVELOPMENT OF STABILIZATION AGREEMENT ON
WHEAT TRADE. COMMENT: DELEGATION INTERPRETS ABSENCE OF
PAST NEGATIVE COMMENTS ON STOCKING MEASURES AS A SIGN THAT
USSR WILL SEEK SOME MEANS TO OVERCOME THEIR OBJECTION TO
RESERVES CONCEPT.

C. EGYPTIAN STATEMENT CONCENTRATED ON INTERESTS OF FOOD
IMPORTING LDC'S, CALLING FOR REALIZATION OF WFC RECOMMENDA-
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TIONS ON FOOD AID, AND FOR ASSISTANCE FOR LDC'S WITH PAY-
MENTS BALANCE DIFFICULTIES. INDICATED THAT PRICES SHOULD
REMAIN WITHIN A RANGE REASONABLE FOR BOTH EXPORTERS AND

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EUR-12 NEA-10 /135 W

-----093685 181234Z /11

R 181209Z FEB 78

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IMPORTERS, ESPECIALLY LDC'S, THOUGH AVOIDED SPECIFIC
MENTION OF MINIMUM/MAXIMUM PRICES.

D. INDIA CALLED FOR SAFEGUARDING OF LDC'S FOOD SECURITY
INTERESTS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FAD-RECOMMENDED RESERVE AND
WORKING STOCKS TOTALING 17 TO 18 PERCENT OF CONSUMPTION,
THAT IS, 60-70 MMT OF WHICH 30 MMT WHEAT. SUPPORTED
NATIONALLY HELD, INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED STOCKS SYSTEM
WITH SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO FACILITATE LDC PARTICIPATION.
WITHOUT STATING POSITION, PLEDGED COOPERATION IN
RESOLVING MINIMUM/MAXIMUM PRICE ISSUE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA02564
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780075-1081
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780238/aaaabfrs.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 44ef07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3549931
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD WHEAT CONFERENCE; ORGANIZATION AND GENERAL STATEMENTS
TAGS: ETRD, OCON, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/44ef07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014